

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

[[a.)]] receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a client;

[[b.)]] determining that the request for the resource does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred;

[[c.)]] responsive to determining that the request does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred:

assigning a new visitor identifier;

sending, to the client, a redirection request comprising:

the new visitor identifier; and

an indicator that redirection has occurred,

wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is provided separate from the visitor identifier, and

wherein the redirection request is configured to cause the client to send a subsequent request that includes at least the indication that redirection has occurred;

~~sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to the client, the redirection request comprising an indicator that redirection has occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is provided separate from the visitor identifier;~~

receiving the subsequent request sent from the client, the subsequent request including the indication that redirection has occurred;

determining, based at least on the received subsequent request, that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did not store the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request;

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did not store the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request, determining that the client does not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the client.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

3. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

[[a.)) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having an address;

[[b.)) determining that the request does not include a visitor identifier;

[[c.)) responsive to determining that the request does not include a visitor identifier:

[[c.1)]] determining that the request does not include an indicator that redirection has already been performed, where redirection comprises:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending₂ to the requestor₂ a redirection request including:

the new visitor identifier₂ and

an indicator that redirection has already been performed,

wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier₂ and

wherein the redirection request is configured to cause the requestor to send a subsequent request that includes at least the indicator that redirection has already been performed;

[[c.2)]] responsive to determining that the request does not include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending₂ to the requestor₂ a redirection request including:

the new visitor identifier₂ and

an indicator that redirection has already been performed,

wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, and

wherein the redirection request ~~being~~ is adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource via a subsequent request that includes that includes at least the indicator that redirection has already been performed.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein determining ~~whether~~ that the request for the resource does not includes a visitor identifier comprises:

comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor identifiers; and,

in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid visitor identifiers, indicating that the request ~~[[did]]~~ does not include the visitor identifier.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

~~[[e.))]]~~ categorizing data sent with the request for the resource by at least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor identifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

repeating the steps of claims 1 or 2, respectively,[[a-c]] for a predetermined amount of time.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

repeating the steps of claims 1 or 2, respectively,[[a-c]] until receiving a particular request for a resource.

11. (Currently amended) A data collection server for determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising:

a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource from a requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for performing the steps of:

[[a]]) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier; and

[[b]]) responsive to determining that the request does not include a visitor identifier:

[[b.1)]] determining whether the request includes an indicator that redirection has already been performed, where redirection comprises:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending₁ to the requestor₁ a redirection request including:

the new visitor identifier₁; and

an indicator that redirection has already been performed,

wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, and

wherein the redirection request is configured to cause the requestor to send a subsequent request that includes at least the indicator that redirection has already been performed;

[[b.2)]] responsive to determining that the request does not include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

causing the communication interface to send₁ to the requestor₁ a redirection request including:

the new visitor identifier₁; and

an indicator that redirection has already been performed,

wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, and

wherein the redirection request ~~being~~ is adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource via a subsequent request that includes that includes at least the indicator that redirection has already been performed; and

a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a session end for a particular visitor identifier; and

a repository for~~[[:]]~~ storing data sent with the request for the resource.

12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

13 - 17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing program instructions thereon that, when executed, cause a computer to determine whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

~~[[a.)]]~~ receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a client;

[[b.)]] determining whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier and an indicator that redirection has already occurred;

[[c.)]] responsive to determining that the request does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending, to the client, a redirection request comprising:

the new visitor identifier; and

an indicator that redirection has occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is provided separate from the visitor identifier,

wherein the redirection request is configured to cause the client to send a subsequent request that includes at least the indication that redirection has occurred;

~~sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to the client, the redirection request including an indicator that redirection has occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is provided separate from the visitor identifier;~~

receiving the subsequent request sent from the client, the subsequent request including the indication that redirection has occurred;

determining, based at least on the received subsequent request, whether redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and whether the client stored the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request;

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did not store the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request, determining that the client does not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the client.

19. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing program instructions thereon that, when executed, cause a computer to determine whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

[[a.)]] receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having an address;

[[b.)]] determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier; and

[[c.)]] responsive to determining that the request does not include a visitor identifier:

[[c.1)] determining whether the request includes an indicator that redirection has already been performed, where redirection comprises:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending₂ to the requestor₂ a redirection request including:

a new visitor identifier₂ and

an indicator that redirection has already been performed,

wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, and

wherein the redirection request is configured to cause the requestor to send a subsequent request that includes at least the indicator that redirection has already been performed;

[[c.2)]] responsive to determining that the request does not include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending₁ to the requestor₁ a redirection request including:

the new visitor identifier₁; and

an indicator that redirection has already been performed,

wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, and

wherein the redirection request ~~being~~ is adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource via a subsequent request that includes that includes at least the indicator that redirection has already been performed.

20. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the received request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the same resource identified by the received request.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the received request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the same address identified by the received request.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redirection request comprises sending a redirection request including an indicator that ~~step e)~~ has been performed the redirection request has already been sent to the client.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the received request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the same resource identified by the received request.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the received request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the same address identified by the received request.

27 - 29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

repeating steps [[a-c]]of claim 1 until reaching a session expiration.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

repeating steps [[a-c]]of claim 2 until reaching a session expiration.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving another request for a resource, the another request originating at another client;

determining that the another request for the resource does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred;

responsive to determining that the another request does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred:

assigning another new visitor identifier;

sending, to the another client, another redirection request comprising:

the another new visitor identifier; and

another indicator that redirection has occurred,

wherein the another indicator that redirection has occurred is provided separate from the another visitor identifier, and

wherein the another redirection request is configured to cause the another client to send another subsequent request that includes at least the another indication that redirection has occurred;

~~sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to the client,
the redirection request comprising an indicator that redirection has
occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is
provided separate from the visitor identifier;~~

determining, based at least on the received subsequent request, that
redirection has occurred in accordance with the another redirection
request and that the another client did store the another new visitor
identifier sent with the another redirection request;

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with
the another redirection request and that the another client did store
the another new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request,
determining that the another client does accept visitor identifiers;
and

transmitting the requested resource to the client.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

[[d.))] receiving another request for a resource from another requestor, the another
requestor having another address;

[[e.))] determining that the another request does not include a visitor identifier;

[[f.))] responsive to determining that the another request does not include a visitor
identifier:

[[f.1))] determining that the another request does include an indicator that
redirection has already been performed;

[[f.2)]] responsive to determining that the request does include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning another visitor identifier based on the another requestor's address;

determining that the another requestor does not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the requestor.

34. (Currently amended) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein the cookie handler coupled to the communications interface is adapted for performing the further steps of:

[[b.3)]] responsive to determining that the request does include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a visitor identifier based on the requestor's address;

determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers; and

causing the communication interface to transmit the requested resource to the requestor.

35. (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did store the new visitor identifier

sent with the redirection request, determining that the client does accept visitor identifiers.

36. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

[[c.3)] responsive to determining that the request does include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a visitor identifier based on the requestor's address;

determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the requestor.